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VALLEY STAR

the independent student newspaper

los angeles valley college's



Out with the old dictatorship in Egypt and in with the new democracy and technology.

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lavalleystar.com

February 16, 2011

Volume 74 Issue 1

PARKING PROBLEMS PERSIST

The cycle of parking congestion continues on campus.

NICOLE HUTCHINSON
STAFF WRITER

The beginning of the spring semester marked the start of hunting season for on-campus parking. As more than 17,400 students returned to the Valley College campus, many who drive to school found themselves spinning their wheels in a desperate search for a parking spot.

According to a Valley Parking Tabulation report, student parking is limited to approximately 4,000 spots. This large gap in the relationship between students and parking spaces has been the cause of serious congestion producing various parking difficulties for students.

The parking issue isn't anything new to Valley veterans. According to Valley Sheriff Officer Jerry Morales, the first two weeks of each semester routinely ignite major parking issues, primarily as a result of the large volume of students attempting to add classes.

"It's the same problem every year for the first two weeks, but it always smooths out," said Morales.

In order to alleviate some of the traffic conditions, the Sheriff Station not only participates in helping to direct traffic but also hires Empire Parking Services to assist in the opening and closing of the lots and directing traffic for the first two weeks. However some students feel as though it isn't enough.

"I feel like parking is ridiculously disorganized," said Valley student Matt McShane. "The people they've hired to run the parking areas aren't doing their jobs. I see parking lots that are closed, but I'll see eleven spots alone just as I'm passing through, which tells me a lot of this chaos is sort of self-induced."

Parking attendants report difficulties coping with the traffic issues due to reckless and frustrated students.

"It's crazy," said parking attendant Edwin Mendez. "Some of the other attendants have almost been run over and cones have been knocked down by students forcing their way in."

Valley sheriffs anticipate that parking will improve once permit requirements are enforced, starting Monday Feb. 21. Parking permits are \$20 per semester and can be purchased in the Business office. Students not displaying a valid permit after the 21st are subject to a \$35 fine.

Normally, these issues are expected to cease once the initial free parking period ends however planned construction-related parking closures are expected to cause additional problems. Lot A, located on Fulton and Burbank, will be closed from April to August and Lot D, located on Ethel and Oxnard, will be closed March 8 to Aug. 15.

To help ease future parking issues, plans are in place for the construction of a three-story parking structure on what are now the tennis and softball fields.



Bound For The Floor- As available classes dwindle due to ongoing budget cuts, students pile into classrooms, willing to sit on the floor if it means successfully adding the class.

RICARDO VARELA, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

SEARCHING FOR SEATS

Valley College students start the semester in search of available classes.

STEPHANIE COLMAN
NEWS EDITOR

The start of the semester found countless Valley College students struggling to add classes following ongoing budget cuts that recently slashed more than 120 classes from the spring schedule. The cuts left approximately 4,800 students without required courses.

According to Duane Martin, analyst for Valley's Academic Affairs office, many spring classes filled within days of the start of open enrollment in November 2010. By January nearly every class had reached capacity. As a result, countless students were forced to wait until the start of the semester to attempt to add classes in person. Individual instructors have the option to add students based on seating capacity, but must follow the district's

policy of using either a first-come, first-served or lottery system. In some classes, more than 100 students vied for a handful of available seats.

"My English class had 70 people trying to add," said Valley student Manuel Broca. "None of them got in [and] the teacher said the class was already full. I feel sad for those students. They're just trying to get an education."

According to Sandy Mayo, Valley's vice president of academic affairs, average enrollment has reached 42 students in a traditional-size classroom, not counting those still wanting to add. In anticipation of high demand, some instructors asked to be relocated to one of approximately eight classrooms on campus that can accommodate between 60-100 students.

In choosing to add students,

instructors must comply with health and safety standards.

"Life and safety is the most important thing," said Mayo. "If we have an earthquake and there are 60 people in a room that's designed to hold 30, people will be trampled. All you need is one thing to happen and now you have a whole bunch of people injured. That's just not acceptable. We don't want to put people at risk."

In addition to health and safety concerns, Mayo stressed the importance of maintaining high academic standards, which can become compromised when an instructor over-extends himself by adding too many students.

"The quality of education should be the best possible and we don't want anybody missing out because there are too many people in one

class," Mayo said, explaining that the larger a class becomes, the less one-on-one time the instructor can devote to students. In classes where students are working to develop core skills such as math and writing, focused attention from the instructor can be critical.

Accounting major John Pabalan is taking his chances by choosing to attend a Math 238 class for the next three weeks. He's not enrolled, and so far, the professor has only added three students.

"I tried to add the class online but it was already full," Pabalan said. "I'm hoping the professor will see I'm serious about the class and decide to add me. I felt disappointed being initially turned down for the class, but it will not stop me from trying to add."

Mayo shares his disappointment.

"If we could take every single student who wanted a class right now, I would love that," she said. "To me, the fact that we have to turn people away is just counter intuitive to what we're here for. It makes me sad."

"We want students to end up with the best foundation possible."

-Sandy Mayo

Vice President, Academic Affairs

CHEAPER TEXTBOOKS: IT PAYS TO DO YOUR HOMEWORK

Valley College students find ways to save money buying books.

AVERY CROSS
STAFF WRITER

As the cost of college textbooks continues to increase, more students are finding alternatives to buying books on campus. Popular options include online and off-campus retailers, textbook rentals, and wholesale buyback programs that make used books more available and cost effective.

"I got mine from Chegg," said Valley College freshman Iesha Newman, who rented her math and English books from the online textbook provider. "It's cool. They come in like two or three days."

Sites like Chegg.com and BookRenter.com say renting saves students hundreds of dollars each year. They offer free return shipping and 21 days to return a book if a student drops the class.

Mega online sellers like Amazon and Borders.com can offer even bigger discounts. A used copy of Martin-Gay's "Intermediate Algebra" (Math 125) sells for \$110 in Valley's bookstore but can be found on Amazon for \$33. The required book for Health 11, "Health: The Basics" by Donatelle, sells new with the media bundle for \$76.50 on-campus. But Half.com has a used copy of just the book for \$3.69.

"Amazon is cheaper but you have to order early," said Valley Student Chaminda Wickramasinghe. "The only time I shop here is when I have to get it immediately."

On Valley Bookstore's website, LAVCbookstore.com, students can find out which books will be required for all their classes weeks before classes begin, giving them ample time to order from any source.

E-reader applications and at-home downloading are the newest players in the game. For a fee Coursesmart.com lets students download and print 10

[See **TEXTBOOKS**, Page 2]



REQUIRED READING - Accounting major Nuret Bilash shops for books at the Valley College Bookstore.

JENNIFER MORGAN | VALLEY STAR

VALLEY COLLEGE STUDENTS GO METRO

Valley College's negotiated group rate offers valuable I-TAP cards at a deep discount.

CAROLINA LEON
STAFF WRITER

Returning to school can be costly, but Valley College students can reduce at least one expense by purchasing a \$15 I-TAP card provided by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) and Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD).

The reusable I-TAP card is available to any LACCD student who is enrolled in 12 or more units and is current on academic fees. The card can be used seven days a week on Metro Local and Rapid bus lines as well as the Metro Rail system. The cards are available for sale in the Business Office and are good for unlimited travel until June 10.

"It's one less stress in life that we don't have to worry about," said Valley College student Lakesha Williams. "It's the best thing for struggling students because it gives them access to and from school. Any other traveling such as work can also get done, even if they don't have sufficient income."

According to Metro, they partnered with LACCD to create the I-TAP program to encourage students to go green while also saving some green. For less than

[See **METRO**, Page 2]

IMPORTANT DATES:

MONDAY, FEB. 21

CAMPUS CLOSED

LAST DAY TO
PROCESS ADD SLIPS
AND PREREQUISITE
CHALLENGE FORMS.

(FORMS DATED PRIOR TO
FEB. 21 CAN BE SUBMITTED
ON FEB. 22 DUE TO CAMPUS
CLOSURE.)

PARKING PERMIT
REQUIREMENT ENFORCED.

TUESDAY, FEB. 22

DEADLINE TO DROP
CLASSES WITHOUT
INCURRING FEES.

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE



For information about the Valley College study abroad program taking place in the south of France please visit: www.lavalleystar.com

Also available online @
www.lavalleystar.com

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THE VALLEY STAR INFO & STAFF

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A BETTER BUY? Valley sophomore Erika Arriola compares textbook prices.

TEXTBOOKS

Continued from page 1

pages of a textbook at a time, while Textbookmedia.com offers free downloading by chapters, by placing advertising inside the text.

Off-campus retailers compete by lowering prices on traditional books.

"Our books are usually 5 to 10 percent less [than Valley's bookstore]," said store clerk Kay Jeong, of The Off Campus Bookstore on Burbank Blvd. "That's why [students] buy from us."

"Some of these books are over \$200," said Valley student Felita

Fobbs as she waited in line to check prices on-campus. "I was told you could rent books here but I don't know where. I think that's a secret they don't want you to know about. ...It's like they want you to struggle."

LAVC Bookstore Assistant Manager Mary John said they don't have a rental program yet, but hopes to have one in place by the fall.

Some students also qualify for textbook vouchers through EOPS and all Valley students can save money by selling their textbooks back at the end of the semester.

"The worst thing students do is wait too long," said David Collard

of the Nebraska Book Company, the wholesaler that manages Valley Bookstore's buyback program. "The best time to sell is during finals week."

According to Collard, this is when teachers are placing their requisitions for next term, and students will get 50 percent back on new or used books, no matter where they bought them from originally. The more students who sell books back, the more used copies become available and the cheaper textbooks are for other students.

METRO

Continued from page 1

the cost of a tank of gas the I-TAP card offers many advantages, not only saving students money but often time. Public transportation saves the hassle of being stuck in traffic, circling the school in search of parking, and helps ease traffic congestion. Traffic congestion is a big problem in Los Angeles and students can use their I-TAP cards to contribute to a change.

"It's a great program. The whole semester you ride the Metro for just \$15," said Valley employee Nick Tekie, who works in the Business Office.

According to Tekie, Valley College ordered 1,000 I-TAP cards for the spring semester. Within the first three days the Business Office sold about 500. It's unclear if more will be available once these sell out.

The base fare for the Metro is \$1.50 each boarding and the \$6 Day Pass is valid until 3 a.m. the following day. The I-TAP card for students is also available directly through Metro, but costs \$36, more than twice the price of the cards available directly at Valley.

For more information contact the Business Office at (818) 947-2318 or Metro Commuter Services at (213) 922-2811.

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GOVERNMENT - The ASU prepared Tuesday for the upcoming April elections.

VARUGHAN CHAPANIAN | VALLEY STAR

ASU FILLING VACANT POSITIONS

Valley College's Associated Student Union starts the semester short six representatives.

RUBI MARTINEZ
STAFF WRITER

As many students struggle to find a spot in over-crowded classes, Valley College's student government is looking to fill its vacant positions.

ASU started the semester with six open positions. The positions are for a year-long term, but existing representatives were forced to vacate their leadership roles early due to failure to maintain eligibility requirements, or for personal reasons not disclosed by existing ASU staff. The positions are now open for the second half of the term.

"I don't think the vacancies will affect the student body in general," said ASU president Hanna Matevosyan, explaining that the positions became vacant during the Winter 2010 session.

The vacant positions consist of: Secretary, Parliamentarian, Chief Justice, Commissioner of Ethnic and Cultural, Commissioner of

Affairs.

Matevosyan anticipates that the vacant positions will be filled by the third week of school.

Upon learning of the many vacant positions at this stage of the year, Valley student and business major Eugene Harris said, "They need to make sure to have the right people with the right qualifications to represent Valley students."

Matevosyan talked about the importance of becoming involved in the leadership process and representing the whole student body.

"It's important to have a voice in different functions and represent the students at large," she said.

Matevosyan encouraged students to take an active role in the organization.

"We want to see a variety of students represented on our campus; people that represent different groups on campus -- evening students, transfer students, and recruiting students," she explained.

ASU is currently accepting applications from qualified students to fill the open positions. To be eligible to serve on Valley's Campus and Environmental, student government, students must be enrolled in a minimum

of five units, have and maintain at least a 2.0 grade point average, and be available on Tuesdays from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

According to Christian Fierro, the commissioner of public relations, all positions are on a volunteer basis except for the secretary, which is the only position that is paid. According to the ASU website, the secretary position pays \$9.20 per hour. Money used to pay for this position comes from the ASU fee every student pays when registering for classes.

So far ASU has received ten applications and will continue accepting applications until the third week of school. At that time, the board will appoint and announce the new members.

To learn more about Valley's student government and the roles and responsibilities of the six open positions, visit www.lavc.edu/asu or call (818) 778-5516. ASU is accepting applications in the office from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., located on the second floor of Student Services.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The views expressed on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Valley Star, its instructors, editors, staff or those of Los Angeles Valley College, its administrators, faculty, staff, or students.

opinion

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CHIPOTLE IS A PAPER TIGER

Chipotle Mexican Grill says goodbye to hundreds of their undocumented hard workers who are just trying to make a living.

CAROLINA LEON
STAFF WRITER

Many hard working, undocumented individuals have dedicated their time to menial jobs in an effort to achieve the "American dream," but it seems their dedication is of little value in a country that is not their own.

Hundreds of undocumented workers said goodbye to their jobs at nearly 50 Chipotle Mexican Grill restaurants in Minnesota as part of a government crackdown on companies employing illegal labor.

"If they cannot provide legal documentation, then we

“If they cannot provide legal documentation then we cannot legally employ them.”

-Chipotle Spokesman
Chris Arnold

cannot legally employ them," said Chipotle Spokesman Chris Arnold in a Los Angeles Times article. The investigation didn't exactly begin at the central location of immigration activity, but marks the end of undocumented workers, at least for Chipotle. Federal immigration officials will audit 60 Chipotle restaurants in Virginia and Washington with dates not being revealed. The notices of investigation given in these particular states are not necessarily the ones with the most undocumented workers nonetheless will result in numerous devastating terminations.

If this were truly a wake-up call to undocumented workers wouldn't be able to find a job down the next street. California, which has the greatest concentration of illegal immigrants in the US would be a central target, however, Arnold stated that California has not been affected, but that more dismissals are a possibility.

Many people argue that undocumented workers take jobs from citizens and shouldn't be here. But the reality is they take the most dreadful jobs and have to learn to be content in a country where they are often unwanted. They have no other alternative but to leave their home country in fear of the crime occurring around them or financial struggle. Others come legally with student visas, are forced to work to survive, as a result student visas are lost and there status becomes illegal.

People who have left everything in their country for a better life are not evil, everyone makes changes for better opportunities. Unfortunately the law is the law, which makes it difficult for undocumented workers to succeed in the good ol' US of A. So as they say, "Easy come, easy go."

GOT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR?

Letters to the editor can be sent to: editor@lavalleystar.com or submitted online at www.lavalleystar.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.



BLURRING THE LINES BETWEEN WHAT IS NEWS AND COMMERCE

AOL buying The Huffington Post exposes the world to the first true example of new age media corporatism.

NATHAN McMAHON
STAFF WRITER

Upon first glance, one may see the AOL purchase of The Huffington Post as a corporate sellout on the magnitude of Michael Moore becoming a host for Fox News. Upon second glance, you'd still be right.

Unfortunately, the long decline of quality editorial content at Huffington Post has been evident over the past year and it's epic descent into sensational headlines should

fit in quite nicely with AOL's other over the top media brand, TMZ. Alas, questionable hires, and scrubbed user comments should have been warning enough to see where they were headed.

The Huffington Post was founded in 2005 with an initial investment of \$1 million. In a short five years it had turned from a liberal startup, into a sprawling content provider with about 9,000 registered bloggers who provide constant content in a myriad of different media sections.

The acquisition, which came with a \$315 million price tag, also sees site founder Arianna Huffington continuing as editor in chief in addition to over-

seeing all of AOL's media content. It's a deadly mix of news versus commerce.

When questioned about whether any of her 9,000 bloggers would be compensated for their work, Huffington said no, stating, "That's not how we see blogging. We are providing a super-charged, turbocharged platform." That may be fine and well for her, as she has been appropriately compensated for her time and effort, but that may not sit well with the people who provide the actual content that allowed for this acquisition.

In fact, paying writers like the recently acquired Howard Fineman (formerly of Newsweek), may undercut her point and provide fodder

for disillusioned community members to seek their news sources from elsewhere.

When looking at the merger from the eyes of it's many varied readers, nothing good can come of this. Huffington herself has already stated that she has no intention of turning AOL's content into a political left leaning affair. Yet this strikes me dishonest as she has built her newfound career on the politics of liberalism. Many of the people who read her news site do so because they feel media in general does not provide the point of view they are looking for.

It's too early to tell where exactly this mega merger will lead but it

stinks of the whole AOL/Time Warner debacle, which recently ended in 2009 as a failed media experiment. In the meantime, we'll have to

“We are providing a supercharged, turbo charged platform.”

-Arianna Huffington

wait and see, as this "new media" idea takes it's first major baby steps into the corporate world and tries not to turn into that media mess.

EGYPT: PRESENT AND FUTURE

Egypt looks to write a new chapter of democracy in the long history of dictatorship.

BARRY JAKOB
STAFF WRITER

Welcome to Cairo. A former home to Hosni Mubarak, a present day ideological battleground, angry Arab population, and a plethora of dead kings and queens. Moving day has come, and the citizens of Egypt are free to maximize their potential- and become a model democratic Middle Eastern metropolis.

Finally, dictators all around the world can wake up and reassess their positions in international and domestic political life. The Egyptian people, inspired by the recent revolution in Tunisia, took to the streets in Tahrir Square to oust former President Mubarak. Armed with their fists, a passion for change, and astute media attention, a revolt blazed the Nile and a new cultural structure emerged designed to demand responsibility,

accountability, and freedom from a repressive history. Arab dictators like Mubarak- who put their own agenda in front of their people, have now been branded with an expiration date.

What's so inspiring about the uprising in the Nile is that young Egyptians are setting the stage for a radical transformation in the Arab world, a cause united around the banner of democratization. Young Arabs began utilizing technologies like the Internet, Facebook, and Twitter to change the way people unify in the Middle East, a region notorious for religiously suppressing basic human rights. Fellow students, we are all witnesses to a world on the brink of social reconstruction.

The revolution abroad matters to Valley College students because the voices of millions abroad speak directly to the principles we ascribe too here at Valley. Freedom of speech,

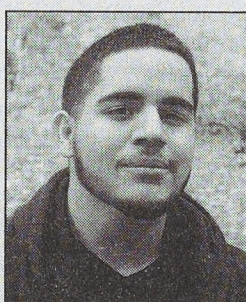


religion, and expression are rights endowed to all, regardless of race, gender, or social class. The revolution in Egypt serves as a model to any country. Any populace wishing to remove the bonds of suppression and translate a new future for itself is capable of doing so. With patience, passion, and resourcefulness and the many gifts that technology bestows upon all humans.

The revolts in Egypt and Tunisia are dual warning signs of what is to come. Leaders in countries like Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Syria are losing credibility with Arabs and worldly

sentiment. To be successful, the youth of the Arab world must couple their newfound power with responsibility, translate their oppressive governments into institutions of tolerance, and work together with the Western world. Egypt and Tunisia are arousing sentiments long since dreamt directly into the heart of the Middle East. As we watch the world unfold, we must remember our role as neighbors in a global community. Support is the most pertinent course of action regarding the removal of dictators and the survival of democracy and human rights.

VALLEY VIEW | WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR EGYPT AS A NEW DEMOCRACY?



"That would be good because they could start fresh."

-ANDRES MARTINEZ,
UNDECLARED



"I really don't know, I'm just learning right now."

-YRVAN BRESCHINI,
NURSING



"I hope it goes the same way as most countries."

-STAN MORONCINI,
HISTORY



"the would have a better democracy and equity"

-DANIELLE DEJEAN-CRENSHAW,
CHILD DEVELOPMENT

PHOTOS BY SAMSON UBA | VALLEY STAR

TACO BELL IS FULL OF BULL

We know we're eating crap but does Taco Bell have to rub it in our faces?

J.P. SPENCE



It's not even so much as "Where's the beef?" anymore because people have become accustomed to eating total crap, but the hubris Taco Bell has had during their "Thank You For Suing Us Campaign" is downright ugly.

Okay, some context just in case you've been living under a rock or we're waiting in line to get a beefy frito crunch burrito. Alabama attorney W. Daniel Miles filed a false advertising claim against Taco Bell for selling products labeled "beef" even though within the company the "meat" is listed as "taco filling." Semantics it would appear except that by the USDA standards state "taco filling" must have 40% beef to qualify and it doesn't take a genius to realize that having a product listed as just plain "beef" sounds better than "taco filling."

So when this lawsuit hit the media, Taco Bell took the aggressive approach with how wholesome their food is except their claims are double talk and red herrings (which may make for a great new chalupa).

Taco Bell's number one defense. "Our beef is 100% USDA inspected." Well of course it is, it's a federal law that it has to be and secondly it's something that our taxes pay for and not out of the pockets of Taco Bell. Plus is there is never something not 100 percent USDA inspected. If it were, this column would be about the USDA. But kudos to Taco bell for something that is free and is a legal obligation.

Defense number two and three: "Plain ground beef just tastes boring" and "So here are the real percentages: 88% beef, 12% seasoning." If you read between the lines there is a tacit omission that their product is not 100 percent beef. Restaurants are also not allowed to make that claim because of all the additives that are added to the final product. While it may technically be beef, as to what type of beef is another story. Beef can also contain minor amounts of bone, blood vessels, cartilage and nerves. Ground beef, in particular, is often made of the less-desirable parts of a steer, the parts that aren't use for steaks and roasts, as well as scraps trimmed from those steaks and roasts.

The 12 percent that accounts for spices is defined by Taco Bell's PR defined as "any product you would find at home or in the supermarket" such as "salt and chili pepper" but forgot to mention it also contained soy lechithin, a emulsifier product capable enough to bind oil and water together.

On top of all this nonsense, the idiots at PETA applauded Taco Bell for thinking outside the beef. Yes, lets save all the little animals at the expense of the ones on top of the food chain.

You can go through the drive of Taco Bell all you want, but this columnist prefers to get his Soylen Green from a company who's more humble about their underhandedness.

E-mail J.P. Spence at managing@lavalleystar.com

LAVC Events

February 15 - March 10

LAVC Art Gallery "Faculty Makes: Recent Works by LAVC Faculty" Now Open

The LAVC Art Gallery will present a new exhibition entitled "Faculty Makes: Recent Works by LAVC Faculty." The free exhibition will feature a rich variety of artwork by visual arts professors who give a personal insight on how an artist's unique approach and process can significantly inform the way that one teaches. Participating artists/professors include Carol Bishop, Joe Bavaro, Annie Buckley, Jamison Carter, Dale Fulkerson, Sam Goffredo, Phung Huynh, Tom Mossman, Dennis Reed, and Vance Studley. The exhibition is open Mondays-Thursdays from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. For more information, visit the LAVC Art Gallery Web page at www.lavc.edu/arts/artgallery.html.

February 15 - May 10

LAVC's Philosophy Lecture Series Begins

The LAVC Philosophy/Economics Department will hold a "Great Philosophers" lecture series on Tuesdays, February 15 - May 10 from 7-8 p.m. in Campus Center, Room 104. The first lecture will be on Socrates and Plato. A complete list of upcoming lectures is noted on the event flyer, view the flyer at www.lavc.edu/flyers/philosophy Lec.pdf. For more information or to request an accommodation, contact Christopher Pallotti at (818) 947-2468 or pallotc@lavc.edu.

! THINK TRANSFER

FAFSA filing period January 1, 2011-March 2, 2011. Apply for financial aid on line: www.fafsa.ed.gov

UC 2011 Application Updates due on line: www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/appupdate

FEBRUARY

Wednesday, 16th CSU Los Angeles Rep 10a.m. - 1 p.m.

Tuesday, 22nd CSU Los Angeles Rep 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

CSU Los Angeles Workshop for Fall 2011 transfer students 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

CSUN Mentor 1pm-5pm How to Transfer Workshop 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

All events held at the Career/Transfer Center, Student Services Annex. For further information contact us at (818) 947-2646 or visit our web site: www.lavc.edu/transfer

VALLEY GETS A LITTLE SWEETER

Valley's newest club gets romantic with handmade valentines to help students show their affection.

KATE MONTANA
STAFF WRITER

Amidst the chaos that naturally surrounds the first week of classes, the Sociology club kept their cool by playing the role of Cupid, selling Valentine candy grams to Valley students.

The club, named the Sociology Experiment set up their table in front of the new Business Administration building Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoon. Club members were busy assembling handmade cards and decorating them with glitter, paper cutout

hearts, stickers and Valentine-inspired phrases.

"We are hoping to raise enough money to buy shirts for the Sociology Experiment," said club member Kate Krantz. "We are a new club and this is our first fundraiser. So far it's going pretty well."

At price points that are affordable to nearly anyone, the candy grams were a fun way for students to save on what can usually be very expensive romantic gestures. The grams sold for \$1, \$3 or \$5. One dollar bought a card, \$3, a card with a lollipop, and \$5, a card, lollipop and a gift bag of chocolate candies. With the average cost of a dozen long-stemmed roses in the United States being \$73, spending \$1 seemed appealing to many students.

"I had no idea that Valentine's grams were being sold on campus," said sophomore Daniel Owen. "But for a dollar, I might just have to go get one."

Unfortunately, the club couldn't get

approval to deliver the candy grams directly into classrooms the old-fashioned way. Instead, recipients were notified by email that they had a special something waiting for them to pick up on the 14th, a much more 21st century approach to traditional candy gram delivery.

One student didn't like the email delivery idea. "It defeats the purpose, I wanted someone to pop in and be like 'You go Glen Coco,' like in Mean Girls," said Lauren Lim. "It was kind of disappointing."

However despite some negative feedback, in the end the Sociology Experiment really enjoyed their first fundraiser as a group.

"We have had so much fun making cards, posters and fliers that if it turns out to be a complete bust and we don't meet our goals, it will have been all worth it," said the club's faculty advisor Laura Scott. "It is a complete experi-



FILLING IN FOR CUPID - A student volunteer prepares Valentine's day cards.

ART GALLERY FEATURES WORKS BY VALLEY FACULTY

"Faculty Makes: Recent Works By LAVC Faculty." opened this week in the campus art gallery.

MINDEE JORGENSEN
STAFF WRITER

This month the campus art gallery will showcase recent works from the Valley College art department faculty.

The exhibit, entitled "Faculty Makes," opened this week and will be on display through March 10. This is the perfect opportunity for students to check out the artistic style of their instructors.

If you're thinking of taking an art class but not sure which one is right for you, this showcase can help you in making your decision finding an instructor whose style intrigues you. The artistic work a person creates is a reflection of them and can offer insight into their teaching style and personality.

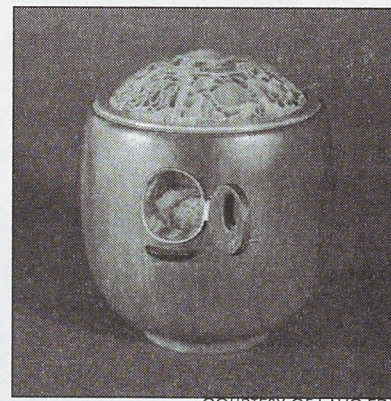
Eleven teachers will be participating in this showcase, bringing a wide

range of styles and mediums. Professor Tom Mossman has a number of works on display, including a piece called Retrospective Self-portrait. Mossman describes it as "A mixed-media piece put together using negatives from years ago. I used a liquid emulsion on empty egg shells and it also includes water color, colored pencil, and graphite."

Mossman will also be displaying a photograph series themed around the Nagasaki bombing that took place Aug. 9, 1945. The series is done in the triptych style, where one art piece is shown in three separate parts. These

can either be one photo divided into three parts, or three photos that are meant to be displayed together for artistic effect.

The campus gallery is free to the general public. It is located in the art building north of the cafeteria. The gallery hours are Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and from 6 p.m. through 9 p.m. It is closed on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. For more information you can visit lavc.edu/arts/artgallery.html or call (818) 778-5536 during gallery hours.



COURTESY OF LAVC.EDU

SO IT GOES ... THE RUSH FOR HOLLYWOOD GOLD

Valley Life Editor analyzes some of the 83rd Academy Awards tougher calls.

DAVID MOTTE



The Academy Awards are upon us once again as Hollywood's elite campaign for themselves and their peers to win the Oscar gold. The best films of 2010 will compete in 24 categories at the 83rd Academy Awards which will air on Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011. Here's a look at some of the tougher calls and disappointments of this year's race for Oscar gold.

Continuing with last year's format, the Best Picture category will feature 10 nominees which include the very best of 2010. With runner ups such as "Black Swan," "127 Hours," "The King's Speech," and "The Social Network," this year's best picture will be a very tough call to make. The film that should win is "Black Swan" for being one of this year's most original and creative films, however the film more likely to win Best Picture is "The Social Network" for its historical relevance and more relatable storyline.

Aside from Best Picture, two of the most important categories at the Academy Awards are Best Actor and Best Actress. When "127 Hours" came out in early November, James Franco's portrayal of trapped hiker Aron Ralston was a sure win for Best Actor. However, after watching "The King's Speech," Franco's chances of winning dissipated with every scene that Colin Firth is in. Firth's painstakingly meticulous depiction of a man struggling with an intolerable speech impediment is his assertion that this year, the Best Actor statuette belongs to him.

As far as the battle between Natalie Portman and Annette Bening goes, Portman's portray-

al of psychotic ballerina Nina Sayers is a true milestone in the young actresses' already impressive portfolio. Though Bening's performance in "The Kids Are Alright" was more than proficient, the character didn't seem to be much of a stretch for the veteran actress, and to be honest, "The Kids Are Alright" was just alright.

In the Best Director category, it seems as though someone performed "inception" on the academy voters, implanting the idea that Christopher Nolan should be overlooked as a Best Director nominee. Despite eight other nominations for the film including Best Picture, Original Screenplay, and Cinematography, it is hard to imagine the Academy passing on giving props to the man himself for masterminding this year's equivalent to 2009's "Avatar" in terms of visual effects and box office figures. "127 Hours" director Danny Boyle seems to have ruled himself out of the Best Director category with his Best Picture win for "Slumdog Millionaire." We all know how finicky the Academy can be about repeat winners (e.g. James Cameron). "Black Swan" has earned Darren Aronofsky a much deserved nomination for Best Director. Despite a very close win for the Wrestler in 2008, Aronofsky has fallen short of praise from the Academy for much too long, with brilliant films such as "Requiem For A Dream" slipping through the cracks of acknowledgement.

And on somewhat of a side note, this year's Razzies should go to both "The Last Airbender" and "Devil" by M. Night Shyamalan. Shyamalan should be handed a Razzie every time he even thinks about making a movie. You're talentless, we get it. Now please just go away M. Night.

E-mail David Motte at valleylife@lavalleystar.com. Send general comments to valleystar@lavalleystar.com

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THE CHASE IS BETTER THAN THE CATCH

"Just Go With It" is predictable as can be but that isn't a bad thing.

J.P. SPENCE
MANAGING EDITOR

The science surrounding Adam Sandler comedies have become so formulaic that the title, "Just Go With It," not only addresses its name, but also the premise for the film. In fact the original title was supposed to be "If It Ain't Broke, Don't Fix It."

Sandler stars as Danny Maccabee, a very successful plastic surgeon who'd much rather hop from bed to bed pretending to be a married man than being in an actual, honest relationship. This is of course until Danny meets Palmer (Brooklyn Decker), with whom he has an instant connection with but has to cover his non-existent infidelity. Rather than being honest and end the film at the 15-minute mark, the slope gets slipperier as Danny enlists his office manager (Jennifer Aniston) to not only be his fake soon-to-be ex-wife but her kids as well.

There is no spoiler alert involved in "Just Go With It" seeing as Sandler always gets the girl but it's the sidekicks, cameos, and outrageous storylines that make all of Sandler films recyclable yet watchable, and this film doesn't disappoint. Kevin Nealon, Peter Dante, Rachel Dratch, Dave Matthews, and Dan Patrick all make their requisite appearances, but the addition of Aniston and new Sandler sidekick, Nick Swardson, make this film feel less like "50 First Dates."

Swardson plays Eddie, Danny's brother, and while Sandler is clearly the lead character, Swardson has the funniest scenes and holds true to what makes Sandler's films great, pubescent humor and vulgarity. Aniston is also a refreshing change of pace as Katherine Murphy. Aniston has the same billing cache as any other Sandler leading lady (Salma Hayek, Drew Barrymore, Kate Beckinsale), but this is the first time in years that the leading lady has more to offer than just being a complete prop.

The biggest surprise of



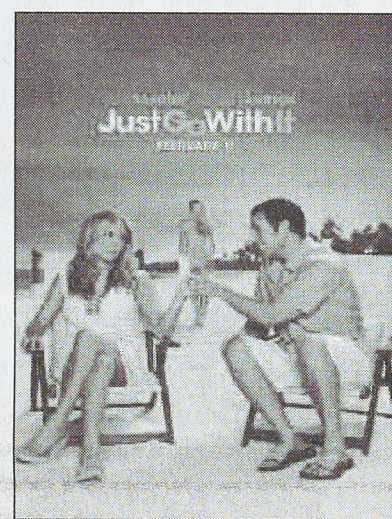
COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES

the film is the appearance of Nicole Kidman in a film that isn't melodramatic or overwrought. It's actually nice to see someone in this film do something that is out of the ordinary which is something that can't be said for the film's star.

Sandler himself does nothing that isn't par for the course. He has the same flawed exterior yet affable gooey center that

seems to melt the heart of whoever gets within his blast radius. It's not that it's a problem; it's just that the audience has seen it before.

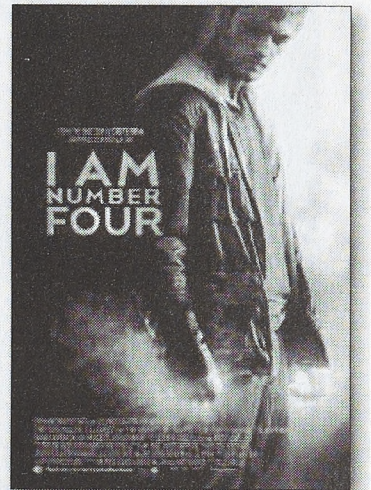
There is absolutely nothing wrong with "Just Go With It." It's funny and winning, but people could also save the \$15 and watch "The Wedding Singer" again.



COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES

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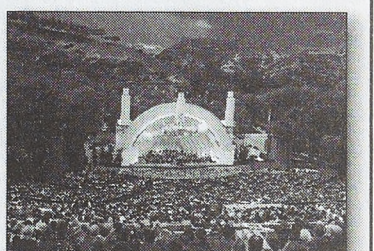
LADY GAGA

BORN THIS WAY

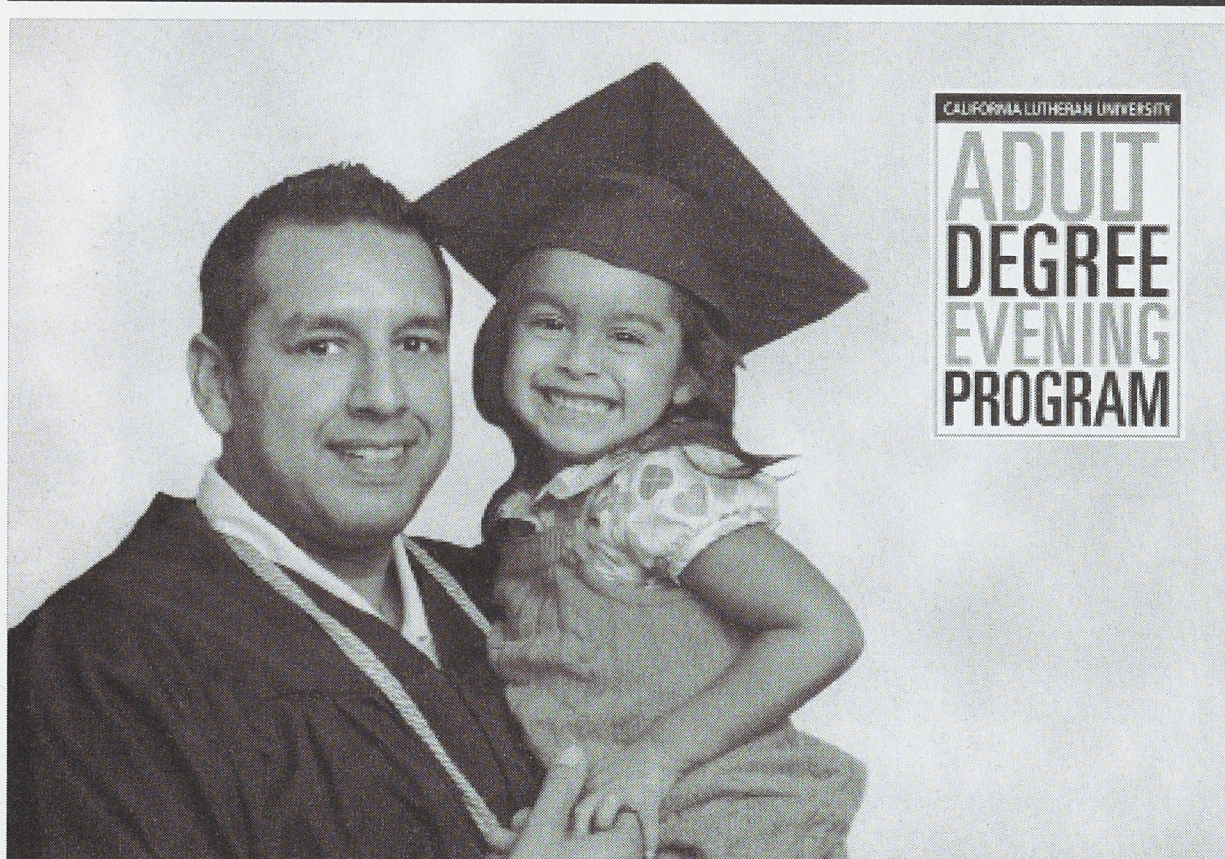
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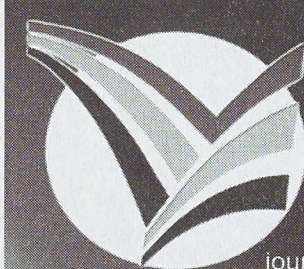
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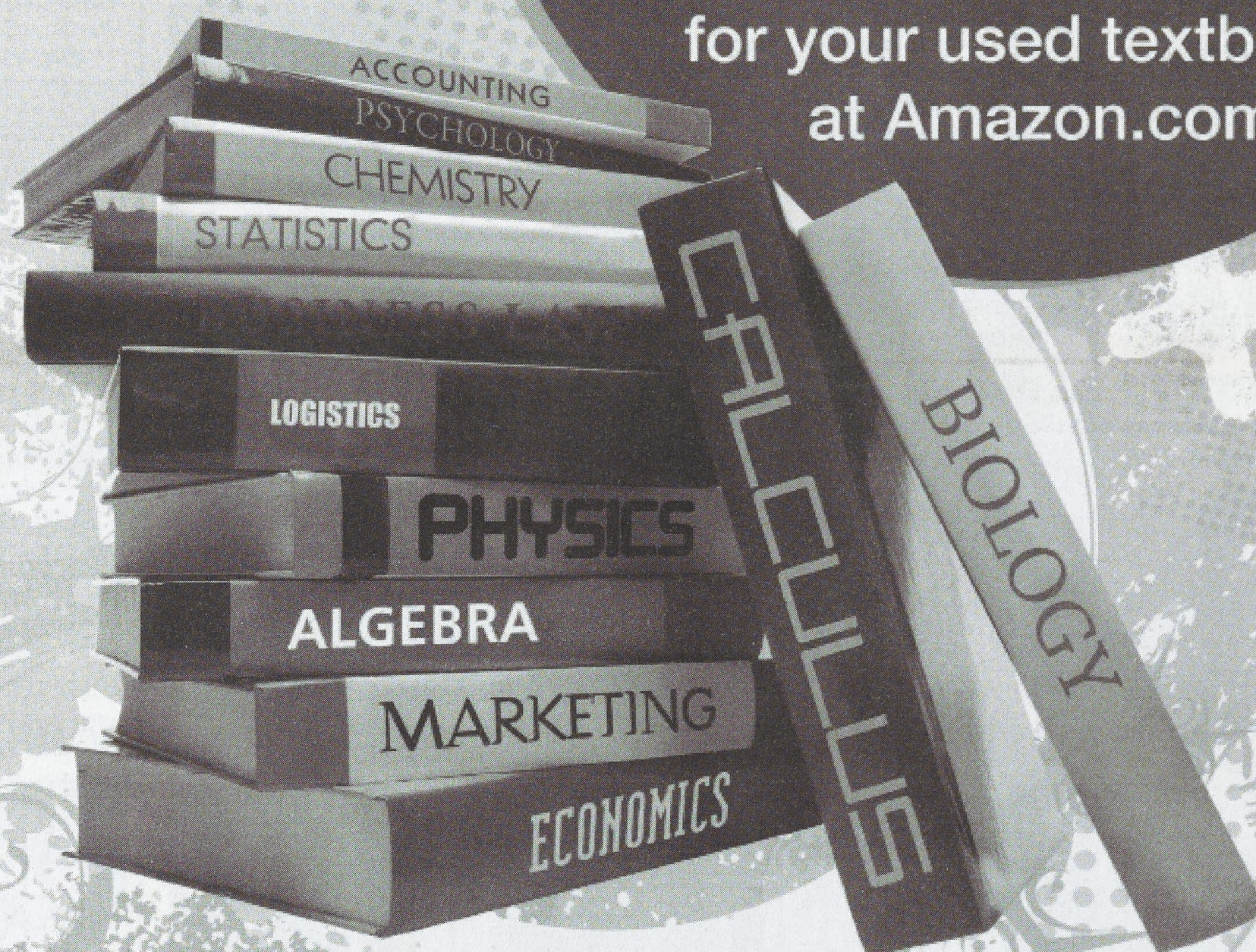
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HEADED DOWN THE RIGHT TRACKS

The Valley College track and field teams look forward to the season ahead.

NARINE PETROSYAN
STAFF WRITER

After an off season full of training, and overcoming adversity, the Valley College men and women's track teams, which were 2010 state championship participants, are looking forward to a new season and higher rankings.

Last year the men's team, led by coach Wolman, made it to the

state championships, placing 20th overall. Individual athletes such as Donte Gilmer, and Kyle Ballew placed fourth in hurdling and the pole vault. Gilmer ran hurdles and finished with a score of 14.7. Ballew found his way into the Valley record book with a pole vault jump of 8.75 in 16 seconds.

This season the men look to expand the amount of athletes in each competition and increase the Monarchs state-wide rankings. The team consists of seven returning athletes, combined with a variety of freshman, transfers, football players, and a few more who are still being recruited.

"There is a big diversity in the

team this year," Wolman said. "It's going to be a good year. We have a lot of hard workers."

The women's team, led by six-year head coach Yannick Allain, also holds high hopes for the season.

"Last year was a down season," said Allain, with only one state finalist in Javalin and four qualifying athletes. "This year we hope to do better."

Gilmer, Ballew, and Lexi Rivas of the men's team believe they can do better this year and make it to the state championships, win two relays and have 4-5 successful athletes in state. With a high turnover of 85 percent freshmen joining this season, Allain is confident in his team.

The 2nd Western State Conference will be held at Valley College Friday April 2, and student supporters are always welcome, according to Allain.

"The sport doesn't get enough recognition, it's actually very interesting, like a four-ring circus, and we can always use more support" Allain said.

The Monarchs first meet is the Pomona Pulitzer on Saturday where the teams will compete against higher division schools like CSU Pomona, followed by the WSC relays in Ventura County on Friday February 25.



HUSTLE - Valley College long jump coach Cheikh Toure instructing his athletes.

LADY MONARCHS WIN THROUGH CHEMISTRY

Even with Valley's starting point guard out with an ankle sprain, the Monarchs continue to win.

COURTNEY BASSLER
STAFF WRITER

After coming off of a successful victory against College of the Canyons Wednesday, the Lady Monarchs were able to secure yet another win defeating Bakersfield

College on Saturday 62-52 on sophomore night.

"With our starting point guard out from the COC game, it was hard to find chemistry," said Valley Head Coach Monica Hang. "The ladies had a hard time filling in her spot because everyone had to play a little bit out of their comfort zone. They did come together [and stepped] up."

The Monarchs, which lost Pelayo due to a low and high ankle sprain, managed the victory against the Bakersfield Renegades, which are the fifth ranked team in the Western Conference Southern Division. The Monarchs, ranked second in conference, now hold a record of 8-3 and have secured a spot in the playoffs with victories over College of the Canyons and Bakersfield.

"We didn't play hard enough," said Bakersfield College Interim Head Coach Tayler McQuilliamz. "We had struggles with their defense."

Defense and the recognized sophomores defined the match up Saturday.

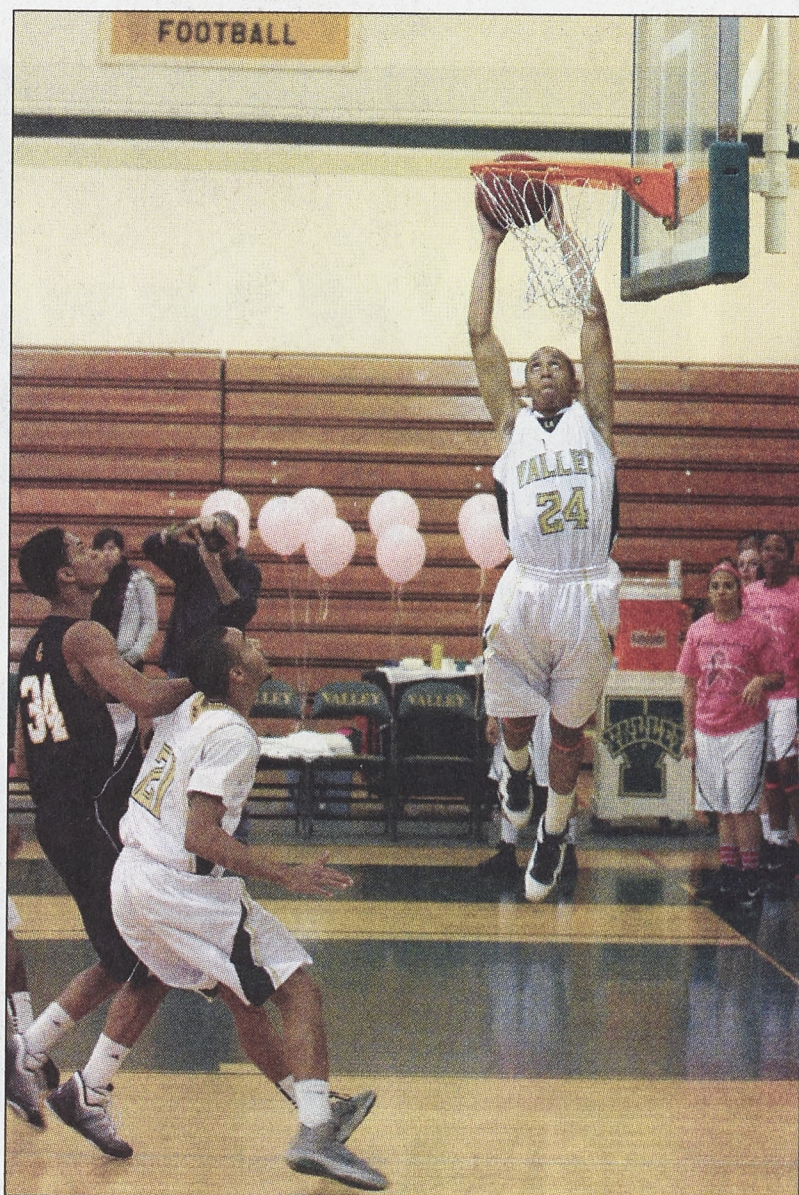
The five sophomores, escorted by their families, were acknowledged at the beginning of the game. Each received a poster of all of the sophomores along with flowers and a balloon stamped with each player's number. The sophomores also presented the coaching staff with a gift prior to the game to show thanks for all of their support and guidance.

"[The] focus was defense and to help people open up and score," said Monarch guard Porcha Davis. "We could have played harder. It's our last game [and] I'm going to miss playing for Valley."

The Monarchs final game of the regular season will take place Feb. 19 against the Santa Monica Corsairs at Santa Monica College. Tip-off is slated for 7 p.m.



CLUTCH - Valley College forward Tracy Petlow putting in a lay up Saturday.



Flyin - Valley forward DeShawn Patterson sails past the College of the Canyons defense to make a lay-up shot during Wednesday's home game.

MONARCHS FALL TO RENEGADES

The Monarchs couldn't find a way to overcome the Bakersfield Renegades Saturday.

JOSHUA LAWRENCE
STAFF WRITER

From the opening tip-off Saturday, the Valley College Monarch men's basketball team showed fatigue. The team's lack of energy and outmatched starting five and bench led to the 81-67 loss against the Bakersfield Renegades, the second consecutive after a 70 to 63 loss to the Renegades on Jan. 19.

"We started flat," said Monarch shooting guard Marcus Johnson. "We put ourselves in a big hole and it came back to bite us in the end."

The Renegades came out strong with Cooper Damron scoring the first four points on an opening 8-0 run. The Monarchs' first points came off free throws shot by sophomore forward DeShawn Patterson five minutes into the game.

Johnson led the Monarchs with 21 points, 18 of which were three-point shots. He did receive some help from teammate Alex Strauther who contributed nine points, three rebounds, and four steals.

The Monarchs went into the locker room at halftime trailing by six, 39-33. Hopes of coming back and making a statement were

shot down by a 19-6 run by the Renegades six minutes into the half. Halfway through the second half, the Monarchs trailed by 20. In the next five minutes, the Monarchs produced 18 points as a result of two three-pointers from Johnson, and baskets from forward Alex Smith, Strauther, and Patterson.

"[The Renegades] got a lot better," said Monarch Head Coach Virgil Watson. "They have a couple strong players and they shot better than they have any other game."

With five minutes left in the game and down by 13 points, the Monarchs refused to give up, pulling within seven with three minutes remaining. However, the Renegades out-hustled the Monarchs and increased the lead back to 12 with another 5-0 run with a minute to play. One last three-pointer from Johnson with 30 seconds left were all the points the Monarchs could produce in the final minute. The Renegades made three more free throws and a final "dagger" basket with 10 seconds left on an easy lay-up.

"We didn't have energy the whole game," Watson said. "We are better than this and we didn't play to our full potential. We need to play like champions again and get our intensity back. We used to play all out, but we didn't today."



HOT SHOT - Valley freshman guard Darius Hooks lays a shot up during Saturday's home game versus Bakersfield.

ANALYZE THIS THE IGNORANT LAKERS FAN

Patience is key.

LUCAS THOMPSON



As the NBA All-Star Break approaches this weekend in Los Angeles, Laker's fans and critics alike have not been shy in displaying their short term memories and disloyal practice.

When the purple and gold lost at home against Paul Pierce and the Boston Celtics 96-109 on Jan. 30, questions and speculations began to surround the Lakers organization and it's capability of winning another championship. In the days after the loss several trade rumors began surfacing including that of Ron Artest and Andrew Bynum.

Wait, let me repeat that for you, yes- Ron Artest and Andrew Bynum. Ok. Granted Artest has looked somewhat lackadaisical during certain portions of the season, but Artest? Are we talking about the same guy who threw up 20 points, five rebounds and five steals in 46 minutes of game 7 of the NBA Championship last year? By the way if you haven't been on planet earth for the past couple of years, that was the second consecutive championship the Lakers have put together since 2001-02. And it was against Boston.

"Kobe wanted to win," Artest said after game 7. "He didn't want to lose. He was determined. He was Kobe Bryant, Black Mamba," Artest explained. "Later in the second half, he started to move the ball and attack the pass. He trusted us and he made us feel so good, and he passed me the ball. He never passes me the ball."

While Artest was showing off a bit of his humorous side, he was also showing why he is so valuable as a player. Ron is the guy in the trenches who does what it takes to come out victorious when it really counts. He snags rebounds, grabs steals, throws up three-pointers, and cooks dinner all while getting dirty looks from the "Zen Master." He's that scrappy, ruthless player every team needs but few acquire ... and he will be essential come playoff-time, especially against the Celts.

And now to make matters worse there are rumors floating around about trading Andrew Bynum. It's no secret that what makes the Lakers such a dominant force is two things: height and experience. Without the triple threat height in Bynum, Odom, and Gasol, the Lakers are just another team in the NBA. Bynum is the last of his kind in this league, he is the only true turn your back to the basket, work the middle, dish out, and shoot high, all game center left in the league, and when he is healthy ... he will be the best.

It's players like Artest who define what the Lakers are and why they have been so successful. They know when to turn up the heat and when they can tail off a bit. They're experience, talent, and of course Phil Jackson make them an unbeatable force when at full potential. And trust me, the slow, disorganized and "older" team which has defined the "Lake Show" as of late, will soon dissipate when Kobe and co. show you their true colors.